

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PINT, UR
SUBJECT: IZVESTIA CITES REPUBLIC MINISTERS FOR BELOW PLAN
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

1. REPUBLIC-LEVEL MINISTERS IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE BEING LISTED BY NAME IN IZVESTIA WHEN THEIR MINISTRIES HAVE NOT FULFILLED FIRST-QUARTER PRODUCTION PLANS. A MOVE UNUSUAL BUT NOT UNPRECEDENTED, IT IS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF USING UNFAVORABLE NOTICE - AND IMPLICATION OF FUTURE ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTION AS A SPUR TO BETTER PERFORMANCE. IT APPEARS TO BE ANOTHER REFLECTION OF BREZHNEV'S VIEW (EXPRESSED, FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS) THAT THERE ARE "RESERVES" AVAILABLE IN MANY SECTORS OF THE ECONOMIC AND THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS STIMULATION TOWARD GREATER EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY.

2. BETWEEN APRIL 13 AND 19 IZVESTIA REPORTS ON FIRST-QUARTER PERFORMANCE TICKED OFF THE FOLLOWING MINISTRIES AND MINISTERS:

(A) TURKMEN SSR - CONSTRUCTION (V. ZHULENEV) AND AGRICULTURAL CONSTRUCTION (C. MOVLAMOV).

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(B) LATVIAN SSR - CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (YA. EGER), CONSTRUCTION (I. ULMANIS).

(C) TADZHIK SSR - CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS (I. SHEVCHENKO), CONSTRUCTION (M. SHARIPOV), LAND RECLAMATION AND WATER RESOURCES (A. KASIMOV), AND THE MEAT AND DAIRY INDUSTRY (A. LENSIN).

(D) ARMENIAN SSR - FOOD (S. ARKAKELYAN), CONSTRUCTION

MATERIALS (G. VARTANYAN).

(E) IN ADDITION A PARTY PLENUM IN MID-APRIL IN THE UKRAINE ADOPTED A DECREE CRITICIZING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE REPUBLIC'S MINISTERS OF COAL PRODUCTION, CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION AND HEAVY CONSTRUCTION (SEE MOSCOW A-118 FOR MORE DETAILS).

3. IZVESTIA HAS ALSO CARRIED ITS OWN "STATISTICAL SERVICE" REPORTS ON THE MOLDAVIAN, ESTONIAN AND KIRGIZ REPUBLICS WITHOUT CITING ANY MINISTERS FOR POOR PERFORMANCE. MOREOVER, IN THE ONLY ONE TO DO SO THUS FAR, THE REPORT ON ESTONIA PRAISES THREE MINISTRIES FOR "SUCCESSFULLY COPING WITH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES": LIGHT INDUSTRY (YU. VLADYCHIN), LOCAL INDUSTRY (F. YURGINS), AND TIMBER AND WOOD PROCESSING (V. CHERNYSHEV).

4. ON THE BASIS OF EVENTS SINCE THE 25TH PARTY CONGRESS IT CANNOT BE NECESSARILY BE CONCLUDED THAT A MINISTER IS ON HIS WAY OUT JUST BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN PUBLICLY CITED FOR POOR PERFORMANCE. SEVERAL SO NAMED ARE STILL IN PLACE EVEN THOUGH THEIR SUB-STANDARD PERFORMANCES HAVE BEEN SPOTLIGHTED. AT THIS STAGE IT CAN BE CONSIDERED A SERIOUS WARNING TO THE MAN CONCERNED RATHER THAN A MARK OF IMPENDING DEMOTION. APPLICATION - OR IMPLIED APPLICATION - OF STICK AS A SPUR TO GREATER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IS A HOARY TRADITION IN USSR, BUT WHETHER IT CAN PROMOTE GREATER EFFICIENCY AND HIGHER QUALITY PRODUCTION REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
TOON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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